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Department of Education on Aruba study loans

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Department of Education (DEA) has issued an appeal to all those intending to embark on a program of study with government financing for school year 2013/2014, to submit an application for the "Arubalening" (Aruba study loan) no later than by December 7th. An informative brochure and application form are available for download on their website.

To apply for the Aruba study loan, you must make use of the application form on the website at www.ea.aw.

On their website you will

find information on studying, study financing and a guide on choosing areas of study. There is also more information on the application procedure, conditions for qualifying, the amount of financing available, the duration, finalization and repayment of the study loan. Visit the website and search for Arubalening at letter A in the alphabet menu.

The petition for a study loan must be submitted to the "Studiefaciliteiten" section of the Aruba Department of Education.

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Dutch Caribbean experts meet to deliberate over contagious diseases

ORANJESTAD -- The past week opened with extensive meetings conducted by experts from the International Health Regulations (IHR). The meetings were held in the Radisson Resort & Casino and were organized by the Rijksinstituut for People's health and Environment in Holland. The Aruba Ministry of Public Health also collaborated. The intention was to get all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean to reach a consensus on the management of infectious diseases and on a potential epidemic.



Experts from Aruba, Sint Maarten, Curacao and the BES islands: Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, participated in the meetings. They discussed a number of issues, and appointed a sub-focal point where the islands can report to Holland, and Holland consequently report to WHO (World Health Organization).

The concept behind a sub-focal point is for all experts and professionals to work together on prevention, management, protection and on improving the problems which arise from infectious diseases.

Dr. Izzy Gerstenbluth, epidemiologist, explained that according to WHO, it has become necessary to announce a travel prohibition for travel between China and Toronto, Canada, due to the consternation experienced in Canada. The country's reaction was rather negative and they questioned the authority of the

tially spread to other countries. How this should be reported, how to warn others, and how to avoid the spread of the disease and become a worldwide problem.

Dr. Gerstenbluth explained that the Dutch Caribbean islands are not direct members of WHO, hence, their focal point is a center in Bilthoven, Holland. For quite some time they have been pleading for a better system. This is because the long distance plays a significant role when reporting must be done and with respect to the management of contagious diseases. Holland also recognizes the problem of distance, and has proposed that there be a sub-focal point on one of the Dutch Caribbean islands, which has yet to be determined.

Continued on page 2



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Government meets with non-signed off Valero employees

ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday afternoon, Prime Minister Eman, Ministers Oduber and de Meza sat down with about 100 employees of Valero who have not yet signed a severance agreement with the company.

The employees, reportedly, presented their case in a very responsible manner and expressed what they are plighting for at the moment. Several matters were deliberated with the employees. The government assured them that DPL will become involved and will provide the necessary support for the process to be worked out and will serve as an intermediary so as to avoid that the matter be brought to court.

With respect to the wages tax, which must be levied on monies they are to receive as severance pay, the government indicated that they have already decided to lower the tax levy from 25 to 15%. They claim that anything less would be unjust to others and that they could not set such precedence.

My Prince "DENZEL"

Don't feel any more pain, my prince; your
Eyes and your smile will be forver in my heart
Now that you are with our Heavenly Father,
please pray for us
Zealous about life and everything around you
Endless talks we had together, but now it is time to
Let you go, till we meet again,



"Rest in peace in the arms of our Heavenly Father"

Johnny, Jeanine, Nancy; thank you for accepting me in your home and allowing me to be part of Denzel's life, so that we together could sing, pray and praise The Lord.

May God bless you all

Ingrid Does

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Dutch Caribbean experts meet...

Continued from page 1

Microbiologist and member of the Public Health Management Team of Aruba explained that the process of cooperation that the six islands have embarked upon has improved the system for Aruba and will enable us to actualize what we already have. Salazar believes that together we can attend to, contain, limit and liquidate any type of disease which may create a danger for Aruba, or for the entire region for that mat-

ter. Salazar referred to the example of a contagious disease entering by way of cruise lines, or via airlines. He is convinced that we have a multidisciplinary team in our public health system that can take quick and effective action for Aruba as well as for the other islands that stand to benefit from the mutual collaboration.

The essence of last week's meeting was for us to be aware of what each partner already

has, what each partner can offer and what each partner lacks in terms of material or expertise. They are now expertly prepared to put into action a system of vigilance with specific norms for infectious diseases which could have an effect on us or in our region. No matter our small size, Aruba must be fully prepared and well-organized for whatever eventuality.



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7th Aruba College Fair is open today



Aruban students come to explore their options

The bi-annual Aruba College Fair at the Renaissance Convention Center welcomes all students and parents seeking information on various future paths for island youth. The fair will be open from 10:AM until 6:00 PM for this final day. Yesterday, hundreds of students met and spoke with representatives from institutes of higher learning from Holland, Europe, the U.S. and Canada, Caribbean and Aruba. There are 53 exhibitors divided into 4 "campuses," defined by geographical location.

The fair also offers lectures acquainting students with the many types of edu-

cational institutions, and understanding the differences. The requirements and expectation between public and private universities and their costs, as well as those operating as non-profit or for-profit agencies, are explained. Private sessions with representatives from foreign schools, including the U.S., can result in lucrative scholarships, as they seek to diversify their student body with various ethnic and national backgrounds.

SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company, set up an internet café where students can go online to further investigate



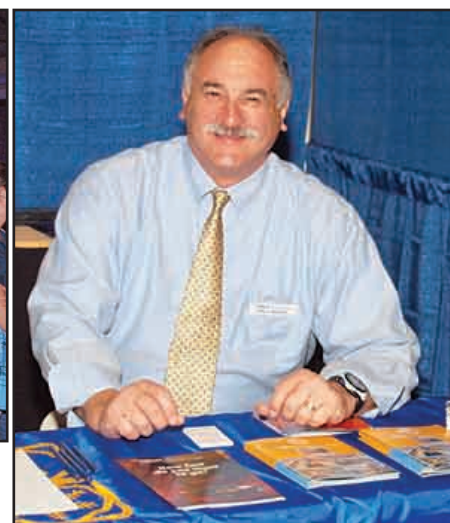
Protecting Aruba's shores with the Coast Guard

schools that interest them, or take virtual tours. Aside from schools, companies such as WEB, Aruba's energy and water plant, Compulearn, the Caribbean Academy of Business, and the Coast Guard are there to explain other career options that may suit undecided students. EPI, Aruba's advance vocational training institute for technical careers, social work, business administration and the hospitality and culinary industries, was a very popular stop for many youth attending the first day, as was the University of Aruba section.

The Aruba College Fair Foundation, headed by Pres-

ident Muzaninn Wever, is conducting this year's event through the kind sponsorship of the Renaissance, Hyatt Regency and Radisson Resorts, and Tierra Del Sol, as well as many local companies. It is an important outing for Aruba's youth and their parents looking towards the next educational step they are looking to take at the end of this school year.

Rosalie Klein



New England Tech



Lynn University in Boca Raton

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Happy Holidays with El Gaucho



Omira and Margaret enjoy refreshing sangria



Seafood Party platter



a showcase for some beautiful, original art.

Through the end of the year, diners will receive raffle tickets with their check. Fill them in and leave in the tumbler at the entrance for a chance to win an all-expense paid vacation for two to Argentina.

Ms. Botta, with Chef Ismael Winterdaal, proudly displayed their new Tripadvisor Award, acknowledging their consistent 4.5 rating from contented customers. Aruba's most famous steakhouse is now more affordable than ever, while ready



Party Platter for three people

to provide an optimal holiday celebration, in the restaurant, or at home. For more information contact them at 582-3677 or visit their website: www.elgaucho.com.

Rosalie Klein



With Tripadvisor Award

Aruba's most famous steakhouse has put together some affordable holiday packages particularly suited to smaller businesses and family events. Restaurant owner Omira Botta, was joined by restaurant ma-

nager Rosa Erasmus and Margaret Navas, assistant managing director in welcoming media on Thursday afternoon, to enjoy the newly redecorated and refreshed premises and menu, in celebration of 35 years as one of the island's most popular eateries.

Taste testers were welcomed by refreshing white sangria, a house specialty, and sampled their new Picada Tray, both land and sea, which will make holidays much less work

for hostesses. At a cost of only \$15 per person, El Gaucho prepares an attractive platter with a diverse selection of either seafood or meats; for \$28 per person, one can get a combination of both. A delicious tray of steak, lamb chops, sausage, and ribs, which the waiter indicated was a "three-person" platter, could feed five hungry people easily. All platters come with a basket of garlic bread and El Gaucho's famous assortment of delectable sauces and marinated onion.

The charming eatery is also offering special menus for holiday lunches and dinners for smaller companies, which includes a free glass of sangria for each diner, for groups of eight or more. This can be enjoyed in their new motif, featuring the colors of the Argentinean flag, blue and white. The rooms are also now



A tempting trio of desserts





Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com



Going Green doesn't have to cost millions, but doing more with less!

Vader Piet has cost a fortune to install and produces a mere 12% of energy. Now, it appears, against all proven scientific evidence of a health hazard, despite non-compelling evidence to the contrary; a second windmill park will be built in the face of worthy, taxpaying residents in complete oblivion to their

vested interests and expressed concerns...to produce another meager 18% of energy at the cost of 100 million dollars!

But, if we take an educated look at the reality staring us in the face, we must conclude that that humongous investment could really be saved! Going GREEN for Aruba does not have to cost millions. We

could realistically achieve the same goal...50% energy reduction and efficient, by doing more with less!

Here is my argument. The total energy cost on Aruba is concentrated in what we spend to keep cool. The largest percentage of Elmar's income is generated from air conditioners in businesses and homes

using the old air conditioner systems. We can safely say that 50% of our energy production goes to keeping the island cool. Now, if everyone throws out their old air conditioner and installs the new cost-saving inverter types, we would be saving 30% energy. Any good inverter saves 60% on energy consumption!

If everyone changed to inverter type air conditioners (homes and businesses) the island (Elmar) would be using 30% less energy. One observer indicated that this saving would compare to 3 Vader Piet wind turbine parks at \$100 million dollars per park! We will also have to figure in the savings of \$100 million dollars for the required infrastructure.

We can continue to figure that if each home decided to invest in the cost-saving LED lights, another 20% could be saved. Now, do the math for yourself, 30% less energy by using inverters and 20% less by using LED, we will have reduced our consumption by 50% at the fraction of the cost compared to the millions just cited! Theoretically the return on the investment in inverters and Led is between one and two years!

Today's technology can definitely help Elmar to significantly reduce (50%) her energy consumption!

Obviously, Elmar's income would be substantially reduced as well. However, by being creative and innovative they could easily compensate for the reduced revenue. Maybe, sell electric cars and install electric charging stations! For citizens, the reduction in our electric consumption will mean more spending money for other necessities rather than for electric bills. This would mean a significant boost to the overall economy of the island!

Someone may be asking ... "is this feasible - everyone changing to inverters and LED?" My response to that question is, with the right kind of incentives and educational program, business cooperation and political will; this is very realistic and achievable. And...what's more, we would not have to wait until 2020 to achieve it either!!

If we can reduce our consumption by 50% without the cost of millions, then with great wisdom choose the very best form of alternative energy to account for the other needed 50% we would be a much better example and model for the rest of the world!

What we are about now, in the estimation of those really in the know, will only make us the laughing stalk of the world! Or, at least they will qualify Aruba as being sincere but very wrong! And, being sincerely wrong is even more pathetic.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Million-name petition and Nobel calls for Malala

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - More than a million people have signed a global petition supporting shot Pakistani school-girl Malala Yousafzai, UN envoy Gordon Brown said YESTERday, amid calls for her to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The 15-year-old who narrowly escaped death when she was shot in the head by Taliban militants a month ago for the "crime" of promoting girls' right to go to school has touched millions across the globe.

A separate online petition calling for her to be put forward for the Nobel has attracted nearly 90,000 signatures and campaigners urged British Prime Minister David Cameron to recommend her for the award.

The Taliban hitman's bullet grazed Malala's brain and she is now recovering in hospital in Britain, from where she said she was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support.

"She wants me to tell everyone how grateful she is and is amazed that men, women and children from across the world are interested in her well-being," her father Ziauddin Yousafzai said on her behalf.

"We deeply feel the heart-touching good wishes of the people across the world of all caste, colour and creed," he said in a statement issued by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

in Birmingham, where Malala is being treated.

Today has been designated "Malala Day" by the UN, with demonstrations and vigils expected around the world to show support for her and call for girls' education.

Some 32 million girls worldwide are denied access to education, according to UN figures, while in Pakistan more than five million children do not go to school.

Brown, the UN's envoy for global education, presented Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari with the million-strong global petition and a second petition also with a million signatures from Pakistanis demanding free education for all.

The former British prime minister is visiting Pakistan to begin work on a plan to help the country get all of its out-of-school children into the classroom by 2015.

Education in Pakistan is under attack from Islamist militants opposed to secular schooling but also suffers from chronic underfunding -- the country spends less than 2.5 percent of GNP on education, according to UN children's agency UNICEF.

The official literacy rate is 58 percent, with less than half of women able to read and write, yet in 2011-12 the government's spending on defence was more than 10 times greater than education.

Department of Education on Aruba...

Continued from page 1



This section of the Department is located on the first floor of the Codemsa Building at Cumana 69. For questions, please contact them on telephone 588-7600, fax 588-7601 or via email at arubalening@ea.aw.

Facebook

The Aruba Department of Education is also active on Facebook. They regularly publish information on finding

housing, contract signing, info on insurances and other relevant information for those applying for a study loan.

Hence, you are advised to "like" their Facebook page if you have applied for a study loan: facebook.com/education-aruba.

Aruba College Fair

The Aruba Department of Education will be present at the Aruba College Fair today

November 10. They will be giving information regarding the Aruba study loans and answering questions.

The last day to apply for the study loan is Friday, December 7th, 2012 at the Department of Education.

Your application must be submitted no later than December 7th. All applications received after this date will be for the January 2014 period onward.

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Photo shows resident standing in rain and snow as gas lines remain long. New York City is trying to tackle long lines at the pumps through a gas rationing program that will remain in place "until further notice." Following in the footsteps of New Jersey, Mayor Bloomberg signed "an emergency order to establish an odd-even license plate system" to cut down on wait times as consumers queue at gas stations to fill up their tanks. The measure took effect at 6 a.m. yesterday. Drivers with license plates ending in an even number can buy only on even-numbered days. Drivers with license plates ending in an odd number can buy on odd-numbered days. Vanity plates are considered odd. Friday was an odd numbered day.



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Half-Hispanic Bush nephew signals political bid

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The half-Hispanic nephew of former president George W. Bush has taken a first step towards running for political office in Texas, US media reported.

George P. Bush filed a document with the Texas Ethics Commission showing he has designated a campaign treasurer -- a step necessary before any bid for statewide office, The New Republic reported yesterday.

The young Republican did not specify which post he is setting his sights on, but the move signals the arrival of the next generation of the powerful Bush political dynasty.

Besides his ties to both former presidents Bush, he is the son of Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida, who has been suggested as a possible candidate for president in 2016.

Thanks to the changing demographics of the US electorate, George P. is likely to be an attractive candidate to party higher ups: the 36-year-old is half-Hispanic -- his mother was born in Mexico -- and he speaks Spanish fluently.



After Republican White House candidate Mitt Romney's disastrous showing among Hispanics in the presidential vote -- only 27 percent voted for him -- the party is actively looking for candidates capable of courting this growing sector of the population.

Tall and boasting a suave smile, the Navy reserve officer and investor is already active on the political scene.

During the Republican convention in Tampa, Florida, in August, Bush attended a conference on the "next generation," alongside Chelsea Clinton, daughter of former president Bill Clinton, and Josh Romney, son of candidate Romney.

New Anglican leader backs women bishops

LONDON (AFP) - The new leader of the world's Anglicans said yesterday he backed women bishops and would examine his thinking on gay marriage, tackling issues that have divided the faithful across the world.

Former oil executive Justin Welby was named as the next archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church of England, capping a remarkable rise for the 56-year-old who has only been a bishop for a year.

In March he will replace Rowan Williams, who will retire as archbishop in January after a decade spent battling di-

visions in the worldwide Anglican communion of around 80 million.

Welby, currently the bishop of Durham in northeast England, said the Church of England faced "deep differences" over the issues of sexuality and the ordination of female bishops, which have threatened to cause a permanent rift with conservative Anglican bishops, in particular, in Africa.

"The Church of England is part of the worldwide church and has responsibility in terms of those links," he told a press conference at Lambeth Palace, the archbishop of Canterbury's

office in London.

Welby said he would vote in favour of women bishops when the General Synod, the governing body of the worldwide Anglican Communion's mother church, decides on the issue later in November.

Welby also said he supported the Church of England's official opposition earlier this year in response to a British government consultation on upgrading same-sex "civil partnerships" to gay marriage.

But he said he would "examine my own thinking carefully and prayerfully" on the issue.

Floods claim as many as 16 lives in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Flood waters inundated impoverished areas of Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city, killing as many as 16 people, including three children, city officials said yesterday.

"The city has been struck by disaster. There are many dead and major damage. All the populous areas are flooded," Cap-Haitien Mayor Wilborde Beon told AFP by telephone.

Beon said many people had to be rescued and given shelter

from the high waters, which swept through the northern city Thursday night amid heavy rains in the region.

"The entrance to the city is completely flooded, all the rivers and ravines are swollen," he said, appealing for aid and support.

Preliminary estimates put the number of dead at 16, most of them when their homes collapsed in the flooding and heavy rains, the city's police chief, Kenel Pierre, told AFP.

Three children were unac-

counted for and their father was in the hospital, officials said.

"There are effectively many victims that we have not been able to confirm because it is difficult to move around," Beon said.

The latest disaster to befall Haiti, which was devastated by a 2010 earthquake that killed some 200,000 people, comes just two weeks after it was hit by Hurricane Sandy, which claimed the lives of at least 54 people.

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HEALTH & LIVING

Get your Vaccines for flu season 2012/2013

What is the flu?
 The flu is a contagious infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by the influenza virus.

Less often, it is spread when you touch a surface such as a faucet handle or phone that has the virus on it, and then touch your own mouth, nose, or eyes.

Because the flu spreads through the air and is very contagious, it often strikes a community all at once, causing an epidemic illness

The flu usually begins abruptly, with a fever between 102 and 106 °F. (An adult typically has a lower fever than a child.) The fever usually lasts for a day or two, but can last 5 days.

These symptoms (except the cough) usually disappear within 4 - 7 days, but the tiredness persists for 1-2 weeks.

How to combat the flu?
 Vaccination is the best protection against contracting the flu.

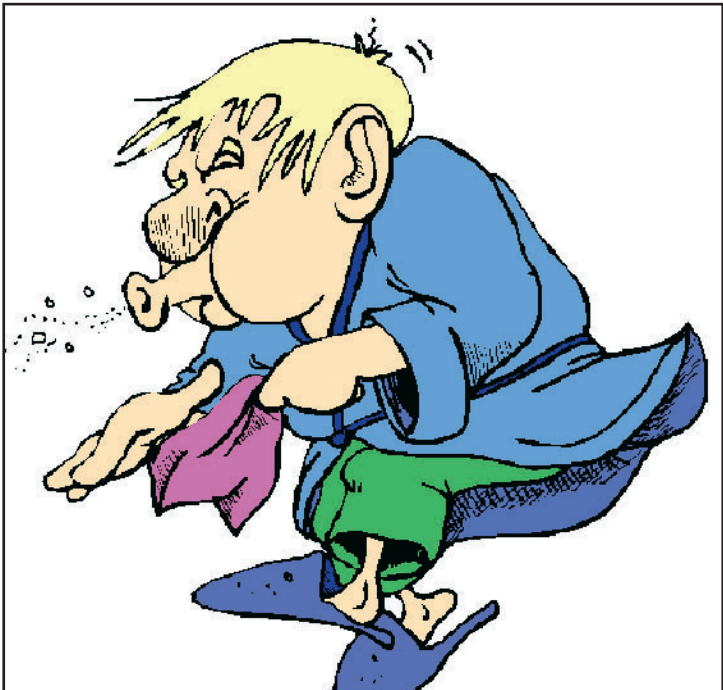
Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against the flu.

Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaler) that can be used for prevention or treatment of flu viruses.

If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster.

The antiviral drugs work only as a prevention, if you are sick already, it will now cure your flu.

Flu is not the cold
 Commonly, when someone is not feeling good, people



ple have the tendency to say that he has the flu, but not every "flu" is caused by the flu virus.

Cold, stomach flu and other kinds of malaise are caused by different other viruses that cannot be prevented by taking the flu vaccination.

A different type of flu every year.
 In countries with winter seasons, every year there is a high percentage of people getting the flu.

Our island is frequented by tourists who bring over the flu and expose our community to the virus.

The flu virus evolves rapidly and new strains quickly replace the older ones, this is why everyone must vaccinate against the flu every year.

Does Vaccination against the flu help increase resistance?

There are different strains of the flu worldwide that are being investigated, anticipating which one will strike the present year.

Based on that information a vaccine is then made every year.

Each seasonal flu vaccine contains three dead flu viruses.

When injected with the vaccine the body reacts to these viruses by producing anti bodies.

When the flu virus attacks the body, these antibodies will counteract and eliminate the virus.

The vaccine cannot cause the flu as it consists of dead viruses.

It takes 1-2 weeks for the body to create anti bodies; in those 2 weeks time a person can get the flu.

Does the flu vaccine help prevent the flu?

Yes, the flu vaccine is for 89% effective.

The 11% combats the flu if a person already has it by diminishing the symptoms.

The vaccine also minimizes the possibilities for complications caused by the flu.

Remember, the vaccine does not prevent the cold or other kind of viruses.

The effectiveness of the vaccine is clinically proven

Is the flu vaccine safe?
 Yes, it is safe, because it consists of dead viruses that induce the human body the produce anti bodies against the flu.

The vaccine is rather well tolerated; mostly it causes a little discomfort on the skin when injected.

This discomfort will disappear within 24 hours.

Who are at risk for the flu?
 Everyone can get the flu, although there are certain people who are at higher risk if they get the flu; it is advisable for them to take the vaccine. They are: heart patients, patients with lung problems (like asthma, bronchitis, etc.) diabetics, patients with kidney problems and persons with a low immunity system.

They must consult their doctor about taking the flu vaccine.

When is person not at risk for the flu?
 If a person is not a heart patient, has problems with lung or kidney, or has a low immunity system, there is no need for a flu vaccine.

It is advisable though to take the vaccine, if, for exam-

ple, a person is 65 years old, cannot miss work for a week, or is constantly in contact with many people, then, it is advisable to consult with your house doctor.

Can children be vaccinated against the flu?
 Yes, all children older than 6 months can be vaccinated against the flu. But check first with a pediatrician.

In the U.S.A., authorities advice everyone who is at risk, to take the vaccine as soon as possible.

In the Netherlands, the house doctors automatically call all patients older than 65 years to get a vaccine.

In the Netherlands only, an average of 2,000 people die every year of the flu, while 20 to 30,000 are hospitalized.

On Aruba, the flu vaccine is available, through a doctor's prescription, at all drugstores.

Combat Dengue
 Keep around your house and yard clean

SCI-TECH

New Blackberry 10 gets security nod



OTTAWA (AFP) - Blackberry maker Research In Motion announced this week that its newest smartphone platform, Blackberry 10, has been certified as secure for use by US government agencies.

FIPS or Federal Information Processing Standard certification "provides confidence to security-conscious organizations, including US and Canadian government agencies, companies in regulated industries and other organizations dealing with sensitive information, that data stored on smartphones running Blackberry 10 can be properly secured and encrypted," RIM said in a statement.

The new platform is to launch in early 2013 to help Blackberry compete with Apple and other smartphone makers.

The announcement comes one week after the Pentagon ended its exclusive deal with RIM to supply its vast workforce with Blackberry smartphones.

Another government agency, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, also said it was dropping the Blackberry device altogether in favor of Apple's iPhone.

The US military and intelligence agencies have long preferred the Blackberry due to security concerns and had worried that Apple, Android and other smart phones lacked sufficient safeguards.

But the technology has advanced and Pentagon officials said innovative applications available on other smartphones could be useful for different units or offices.

Amazon cuts Japan Kindle price before launch

TOKYO (AFP) - Internet shopping giant Amazon has cut the cost of the Japanese version of its Kindle e-reader even before the first customers get their hands on the device.

The price of the wifi-only edition of Kindle Paperwhite was shaved by 500 yen (\$6.25) to 7,980 yen Wednesday, as competition heats up in a sector that has been slow off the mark.

Amazon began taking pre-orders for the gadget on October 24, with the first shipping expected on November 19.

The discount might give an edge to the US giant against a range of rivals, including the "Lideo" e-reader, with the price tag of 8,480 yen, the same as the Paperwhite before its discount.

Lideo, which is made by printing heavyweight Toppan, uses free WiMax high-speed, wireless broadband technology that allows users to connect to its BookLive ebook store with 95,000 titles, compared with Amazon's 50,000 Japanese titles. Sony and Japanese online store Rakuten also have e-readers, while a horde of electronics makers have produced tablet computers ahead of the year-end shopping season.

Collapse of Maya civilization tied to drought: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A long catastrophic drought led to the collapse of Maya culture, a new study said this week confirming a controversial hypothesis linking its demise to climate change.

The study, published in Friday's issue of the journal "Science," involved an international team of researchers.

"The rise and fall of Mayan civilization is an example of a sophisticated civilization failing to adapt successfully to climate change," said James Baldini of Britain's Durham University.

"Periods of high rainfall increased the productivity of Maya agricultural systems and led to a population boom and resource overexploitation."

The progressively drier climate that followed led to the depletion of resources, which in turn sparked political destabilization and war, he noted in a statement.

Then, "after years of hardship, a nearly century-long drought from 1020 sealed the fate of the Classic Maya," Baldini added.

The researchers came to

their conclusion after reconstructing a record of weather in the Maya region -- which includes parts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras -- over the past two thousand years.

They did so by using chemical and mineral analyses of stalagmite layers found in Belize's Yok Balum cave situated about a mile (1.5 kilometers) from the Classic Period Maya site of Uxbenka and near other major Maya centers that were impacted by the same climate conditions.

Stalagmites are formed in caves by the continuous dripping of calcareous water, which allows for the measurement of precipitation over time.

Considering the Maya kept a meticulous record of political events by inscribing them on stone monuments, the authors of the study were able to "chart how increases in war and unrest were associated with periods of drought," according to the statement.

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Scientists use chemistry to add oomph to biofuel

PARIS (AFP) - Affordable fuel from grasses, trees and plant waste that packs enough of a punch to power a plane? Scientists said recently this can be done using chemistry to boost basic fermentation processes.

A team at the University of California in Berkeley said it had developed a method to add carbon atoms to biofuels obtained from fermentation - currently not potent enough to replace gasoline, jet fuel or diesel.

Using the same 100-year-old biological process employed in ethanol production, the team manufactured alcohol and acetone by fermenting sugars obtainable from anything from grasses, trees, corn, sugar beets, sorghum or even plant waste, according to a study in the journal Nature.

The alcohol and acetone is then put through a catalytic chemical process to boost the number of carbon atoms from two per molecule, as in traditional ethanol, to between seven and 15, co-author Harvey Blanch told AFP.

This is similar to the carbon mass of current jet and diesel fuels.

Using similar raw materials, "you get a better product

than ethanol for the same price," said Blanch.

"With the same amount of sugar, we make a fuel that is much more effective than ethanol for the same price of the sugar."

Writing in Nature, the team said it had developed "a high-yield method for transforming readily accessible fermentation products into a variety of carbohydrates into precursors for petrol, diesel and jet fuels."

Blanch said ethanol, the most commonly used biofuel, is not very efficient as it cannot be transported in oil pipelines and so has to be moved by truck, and does not mix well with diesel.

Also, "ethanol does not have as much energy per gallon as some of the other fuels".

The new method should address these problems, but has so far only been used on a small, laboratory scale.

"We've produced enough to have it tested in test engines, several litres," co-author Dean Toste said.

"How far we are from making it viable? The chemistry probably needs some work. But one could imagine that this could be viable in a couple of years."

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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THAT'S A RIOT

ACROSS

1. Seaman, slangily
4. Pass over
8. Iowa college town
12. Part of a GI's address
13. "Elder" orator
14. Rural structure
15. The best medicine?
17. Crustacean
18. Chapel locale
19. Stain
21. Departed
24. Multiple choice choice, sometimes
27. Ear discomfort
30. Symbol of Great Britain
32. Emulate Lindbergh
33. Casino chit
34. Like Santa
35. Dos Passos epic
36. River obstruction
37. Duel tool
38. Lawyer Dershowitz
39. Puts an end to
41. Take to the sky
43. Decays
45. Uses scissors
49. Dullard
51. On cloud nine
54. Lie near
55. Fifi's friend
56. "Schnozz" ender
57. "—"

Congeniality" (Sandra Bullock film)

58. Swimmers' units

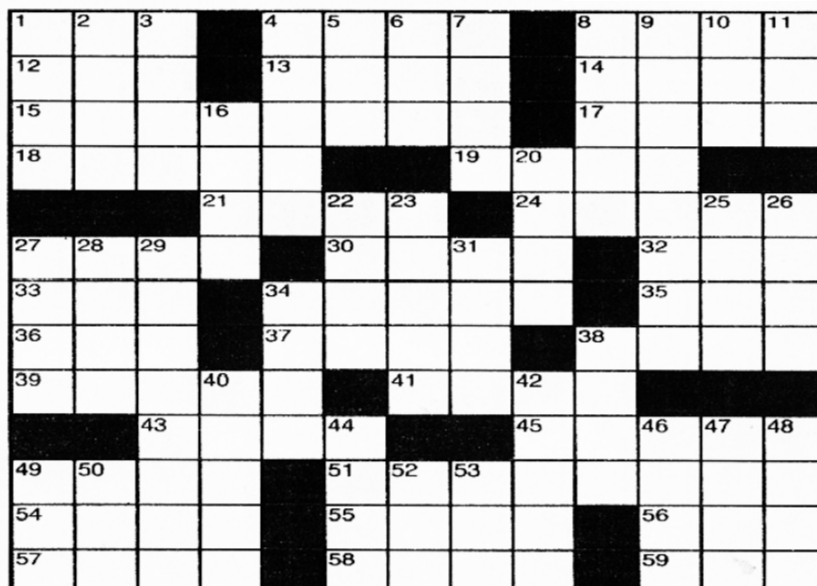
59. Clear, as profit

DOWN

1. Big bash
2. Semiprecious stone
3. Trial of strength
4. Yellowish pigment, to a Brit
5. Small rug
6. Inhabitant of: suffix
7. Rocky mounts
8. Gentleman's tie
9. Joyous

10. Note in Guido's scale
11. Crybaby's sound
16. Nor'easter
20. Spoiled child's request
22. Turkey on Broadway
23. Floor pieces
25. Columnist-hostess Maxwell
26. Romney's running mate
27. Helps
28. Mackintosh or duster
29. Causing chuckles
31. Cooking fat
34. Good-natured raillery
38. It flooded

- Florence
40. After-dinner wines
42. Hibachi debris
44. Christmas stamp
46. Laundry tool
47. Carpet feature
48. Emulate Fitzgerald
49. Emeril Lagasse's exclamation
50. Kabuki accessory
52. Thurman of "Gattaca"
53. "Great Expectations" hero



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

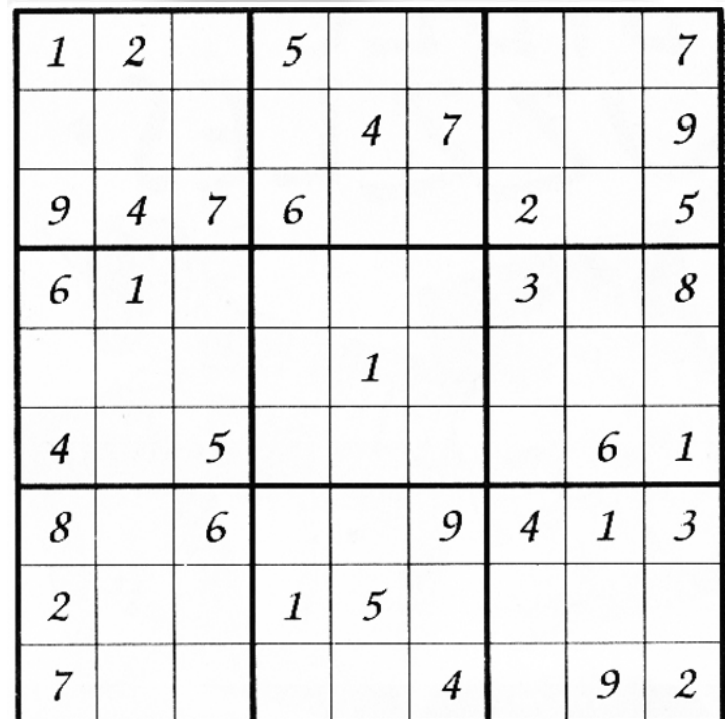
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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
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Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as 11/09/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.75	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.77	2.82	2.88
Switzerland	CHF	187.38	188.10	188.90
Netherlands	EUR	224.04	226.09	228.36
Sweden	SEK	25.38	26.10	26.90
Denmark	DKK	29.35	30.07	30.87
Norway	NOK	30.00	30.72	31.52
Japan	JPY	223.06	225.10	227.36
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

Finance

Treasury: US not ready for Basel III bank rules

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury announced yesterday that it would not implement the Basel III rules for strengthening banks on January 1, saying the banks were not yet ready to meet the tougher capital standards.

"Many industry participants have expressed concern that they may be subject to a final regulatory capital rule on January 1, 2013, without sufficient time to understand the rule or to make necessary systems changes," the Treasury said.

The Treasury said that US regulators who are members of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision "take seriously our internationally agreed timing commitments regarding the implementation of Basel III."

US regulators "are work-

ing as expeditiously as possible to complete the rulemaking process," it said.

But the Treasury did not give a new date for when it expected the new capital rules agreed for major banks around the world can be implemented.

Coming out of a deep crisis, US banks have fought to delay the application of the new standards, which raise the requirement for higher-quality capital to be held by the banks.

Basel III sets the minimum for banks' common equity holding at 7.0 percent of risk-weighted assets, up from 2.0 percent.

The new rules also demand improved risk coverage, especially for complex illiquid trading activities.

Obama warns taxes must rise on rich

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday claimed a mandate to raise taxes on the rich to pay for deficit reductions, firing his first post-election shot in a year-end budget showdown with Republicans.

"We can't just cut our way to prosperity. If we are serious about reducing the deficit, we have to combine spending cuts with revenue, and that means asking the wealthiest Americans to pay a little more in taxes," he said.

The president also announced in a punchy, televised White House statement, his first public appearance since his election night address, that he would call top Republican and Democratic leaders to the White House next week.

The talks will focus on averting the so-called "fiscal cliff" -- a catastrophic blend of automatic tax rises and harsh spending cuts due to come into force on January 1, which could cause a new recession.

Obama signaled a willing-

ness to compromise on the details of a deficit reduction plan, but he made clear that his bottom line principle involved rejecting the Republicans' flat refusal to raise any taxes.

"This was a central question during the election, it was debated over and over again. On Tuesday night, we found that the majority of Americans agree with my approach."

"I want to be clear. I'm not wedded to every detail of my plan. I'm open to compromise. I'm open to new ideas. I refuse to accept any approach that isn't balanced."

"I'm not going to ask students and seniors and middle class families to pay down the entire deficit while people like



me making over \$250,000 aren't asked to pay a dime more in taxes. I'm not going to do that."

Obama's approach left room for negotiation with Republicans and could possibly permit a compromise that keeps income tax rates the same for the rich, but involves a removal of deductions on investment income.

EU 2013 budget talks break down

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Talks between European Union governments and the parliament to agree a budget for 2013 broke down yesterday, said MEP Alain Lamassoure, who heads the European Parliament's budget committee.

The budget needs to be agreed between the 27 states and the parliament but Lamassoure said: "The council (of ministers) were unable to negotiate so the negotiations were suspended."

"The European Commission will now have to present a new proposal to enable talks to resume," he added.

Yesterday's talks had been aimed at agreeing a 2013 budget but snarled instead on accounts for 2012 when austerity-minded states refused to plug a shortfall of around nine billion euros in money used

for Europe's needy.

The shortfall includes huge sums of some 1.5 billion euros owed for instance to Italy, Poland and Spain to compensate victims of flooding or job cuts, as well as funding for the Erasmus student exchange program.

"Everyone agrees that Italy is entitled to 670 million euros

to compensate for floods but there is no agreement on how to find the funds," an EU official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The collapse of the talks augurs badly for a November 22-23 summit called to settle the bloc's even more hotly disputed 2014-2020 spending plans.



TOKYO — Japan's Toyota Motor Corp and Mazda Motor Corp said on Friday that Mazda will produce Toyota vehicles for the North American market at its plant in Mexico. The Mazda plant, currently under construction in Guanajuato, Mexico, will begin producing about 50,000 sub-compact Toyota vehicles starting in the summer of 2015, Toyota and Mazda said in a joint statement. Toyota Motor Corp. will invest in equipment and other costs for the production increase, both sides said. The plant employing 3,000 people was set to have annual production capacity of 140,000 vehicles.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ALF	ETES	VAMP
DEL	POLE	ELIE
ASA	OGLE	RIME
	TEXAS	RANGER
APTLY		MEND
HEEL	AIDA	
STRANGLE	HOLDS	
	EEKS	VAIL
POLO	BENNY	
ARRANGEMENT		
COAT	OLEG	EVA
MUTE	TITO	RIC
EDEN	HAST	NET



OTTAWA - Canada's trade performance beat expectations in September with a smaller than expected deficit of \$826 million, but economists note the sector remains a major drag on growth. The trade report from Statistics Canada found the deficit shrinking by almost half from a downwardly revised \$1.5 billion in August, aided by a welcome 1.9 per cent uptick in exports. Analysts said the performance was encouraging given the weakness in export markets, particularly the U.S. and Europe. Economists had expected another \$1.5 billion deficit. But they noted that on the back of soft August and July numbers, the third-quarter tally will still weigh heavily on the economy.

Aruba Waterpark-FINALLY, affordable family fun!

Heaven knows, Aruba has a climate and environment that begs for a waterpark, but has been unsuccessful so far in presenting a proper facility for all ages. The owner and engineer of Aruba Waterpark, sitting in the shadow of the Hooiberg, designed a fun place with eight great slides from kiddy to killer, surrounded by breathtaking vistas.

Not only does it offer frolicking in the fresh water, but



has an extremely clean, attractive and CHEAP restaurant. Hamburger and hotdog platters are at local prices, as is excellent BBQ and various local specialties prepared by the chef from what is fresh and nice at the market.

and \$8 for children. Those under two years of age or over 65 are free. All-inclusive packages for adults are available for only \$39 for unlimited food and beverages, including alcoholic drinks from the bar.

A \$13 ticket for children includes lunch, two drinks and ice cream.

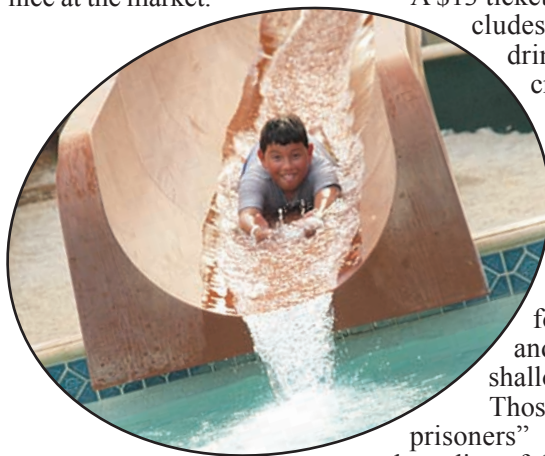
A lot of clever planning went into this park. The family area has long, slower slides for little ones and extremely shallow waters.

Those who "take no prisoners" will love the deep dips of the "adult" section. It is thoughtfully laid out so the climb to the top is not a daunting flight of steep stairs, but a gradual and charming nature walk that

doesn't wear you out. The park is situated on a natural outcropping over amazing views of Aruba for miles around.

Aruba Waterpark is open from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. They host a 2-for-1 Happy Hour on Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. There is no fee for entering the park to enjoy the sunset from their cheerful dining/bar plaza, with already inexpensive drinks discounted even more.

Never crowded during the week it is easy to find, just head for the Hooiberg. Call 585-0060 or visit their website: <http://www.arubavacationpark.com/aruba-waterpark> from more information and directions.



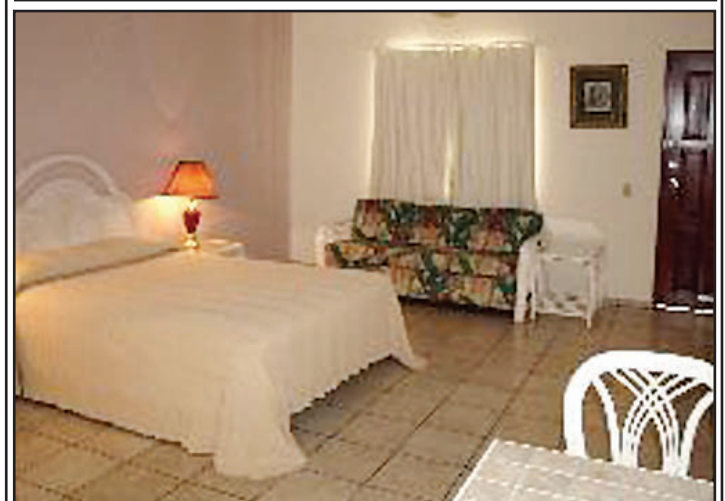
Soups, salads, and various stobas and local dishes are served in ample portions.

Best part of Aruba Waterpark is the price: \$11 for adults



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Aruba is one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean, having long stretches of sugar white beaches, where you can take long peaceful walks or dive in the cleanest of waters found in the world.

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These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apart-

ments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

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The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plantains and vegetables

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

SPORTS



CHARLESTON, SC - (L-R) Kaila Turner #15, head coach Muffet McGraw and Skylar Diggins #4 of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish celebrate with the trophy after they won 57-51 against the Ohio State Buckeyes during the Walmart Carrier Classic on the deck of the USS Yorktown on November 9, 2012 in Charleston, South Carolina. (AFP photo)

You ain't seen nothing yet, say Lotus and Kimi

LONDON (AFP) - Kimi Raikkonen has put his money where his mouth is by paying for 500 t-shirts emblazoned with his "leave me alone" radio message, broadcast during last Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

They are being printed and prepared as gifts from the Finnish driver to his Lotus team and to mark his first victory since returning from self-imposed F1 exile this season.

They also signal that he is back in the winners' circle and has every intention of staying in the limelight for as long as he can - and certainly returning as a race winner.

The Finn returned this year after a two-season absence and held off two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Ferrari at Yas Marina last Sunday to claim his 19th Formula One win.

Raikkonen's blunt radio messages to his team - including an instruction to "leave me alone" when informed of the gap to Alonso - became a sensation among fans after Abu Dhabi.

The Lotus driver said he was simply trying to stay focused.

"Apparently there were a few of our radio messages broadcast on TV and I think in those moments you could hear how much I just wanted to keep my head down, do

my job and win the race. All I needed to know was the gap to the guy behind me.

"I think you can probably find other messages from me in the car if you search YouTube; even from my short time in NASCAR."

Raikkonen was confirmed at Lotus for the 2013 season just ahead of Abu Dhabi and the 2007 world champion believes his win showed he has made the right decision.

"It's a pretty good way to show that everyone's made the right choice," said Raikkonen.

"We've shown all season how good we can be, and in Abu Dhabi we showed we can win.

"There is more to come, I promise."

Raikkonen had finished on the podium six times this year before winning in Abu Dhabi and he thinks Lotus's persistence was the key to that elusive victory.

"We didn't give up," he said.

"We continued with the exhaust developments we made during practice in Korea and India and the pace was promising all weekend in Abu Dhabi."

He added that he has no intention to change his style or approach to racing.

"I've never cared really what people think - if I don't finish the next race, then

they'll think that I'm as bad as that race. I'll just do my thing, and if I'm happy with what I'm doing and it's the best it can be for the team, then that's that.

"So it doesn't really bother me if people are thinking differently of me now, than what they did three hours before the race."

His Lotus team chief Eric Boullier said he always had confidence in the Finn.

"This was maybe a surprise for anyone on the outside of the team that doubted him, but for everyone on the inside it was not," said Boullier.

"Kimi has certainly made his mark and shown that he's back in Formula One and back at his best form. Having him back getting podiums and a win is great for him, great for the team and great for the fans.

"Moreover 'Leave me alone, I know what I'm doing' (radio message) has already become a Formula 1 classic!"

Boullier, who joined the team back in 2010, admitted that his first victory as a team boss was very emotional.

"I received over four hundred messages at the track after the chequered flag! It was a pleasant surprise to see that a few of them were coming from our rival teams saying how happy they were for us.



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

Bolden banned four games for doping violation

NEW YORK (AFP) - New England Patriots running back Brandon Bolden was suspended four games without pay by the National Football League on Friday for a violation of the league's performance-enhancing substances policy.

Bolden has 43 carries for 234 yards and two touchdowns and two catches for 11 yards for the Patriots this season.

The suspension takes effect immediately, meaning Bolden will miss Sunday's

home game against Buffalo as well as a home game against Indianapolis and road games at the New York Jets and Miami.

The Patriots, coming off a bye week and a 45-7 romp at St. Louis the week before, are 5-3 and atop the American Conference East division by one game over Miami with Buffalo and the Jets two games adrift.

Bolden will be eligible to return to the active roster on December 3, the day after the Patriots visit Miami.

Del Bosque recalls Mata as Xavi and Torres rested

TENERIFE, Spain (AFP) - Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque announced a weakened squad for next Wednesday's friendly against Panama as the world and European champions make the trip without key stars Xavi, Xabi Alonso and Fernando Torres.

Del Bosque did recall Chelsea playmaker Juan Mata who has been in sparkling club form and was overlooked for the recent 2014 World Cup qualifiers when Spain won 4-0 in Belarus before being held 1-1 by France.

Mata was English Premier League player of the month in October and has been rewarded with a recall although the former Valencia man played at Euro 2012 where his only appearance was a late cameo during the 4-0 win over Italy in the final.

Athletic Bilbao mid-

fielder Markel Susaeta and right-back Martin Montoya of Barcelona were called up for the first time while Manchester City star David Silva and Barcelona defender Gerard Pique stay behind with injuries.

Goalkeepers: Iker Casillas (Real Madrid), Victor Valdes (Barcelona)

Defenders: Martin Montoya, Jordi Alba (Barcelona), Sergio Ramos, Raul Albiol (Real Madrid), Javi Martinez (Bayern Munich/GER), Juanfran (Atletico Madrid).

Midfielders: Cesc Fabregas, Sergio Busquets, Andres Iniesta (Barcelona), Markel Susaeta (Athletic Bilbao), Benat (Real Betis), Santi Cazorla (Arsenal/ENG).

Strikers: David Villa, Pedro Rodriguez (Barcelona), Juan Mata (Chelsea/ENG), Roberto Soldado (Valencia), Jesus Navas (Sevilla).



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Lakers fire Brown as coach after woeful start

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Mike Brown was fired as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers after the team started the NBA season by losing four of its first five games, Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said today.

The firing came only hours ahead of the Lakers playing host to Golden State, a game in which the squad will be guided by assistant coach Bernie Bickerstaff on an interim basis. A search for a new head coach is already under way.

"We weren't winning, we weren't seeing improvement and we made a decision," Kupchak said. "Maybe it would have changed down

the road. But with this team we didn't want to wait three months and find out it wouldn't change."

It was second-fastest ouster of an NBA coach to start a season. Dolph Schayes resigned as the Buffalo Braves' coach after the 1971-1972 opener.

The Lakers have the worst record in the Western Conference but the NBA's largest payroll at more than \$100 million.

"It wasn't made out of panic," Kupchak said of a decision made late Thursday night. "We went 0-8 in pre-season and we're 1-4 now. It's not like this came out of nowhere."

Brown, who had almost three full years remaining on a four-year deal worth \$18 million, was trying to install an offensive scheme that had players struggling.

"They either weren't getting it or it was going to take too long for them to get it and we weren't willing to wait to find out which it was," Kupchak said.

"We'd like to see something the players can pick up on a little bit quicker. I'm not sure we have the time to implement something really complex."

Superstar guard Kobe Bryant has struggled with a foot injury and gave Brown a 'death stare' glare at Brown during a loss on Wednesday to Utah but praised him in a farewell Facebook posting.

"I had a good relationship with Mike and I will continue to have one. I wish him and his family nothing but the best. I spoke with him today and thanked him for all of his hard work and sacrifice."

Beljan soars into lead on eagles wings



LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL - NOVEMBER 09: Charlie Beljan plays a shot on the 18th hole during the second round of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Classic

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AFP) - PGA rookie Charlie Beljan, fighting to keep his job, made two eagles on his way to firing an eight-under par 64 Friday to seize the lead at the final event of the US PGA season.

The American stood on 12-under 132 after the second round of the \$4.7 million Children's Miracle Network, three strokes in front of seven rivals trying to deny him the first triumph of his brief career.

Beljan began the week at 139th on the 2012 US PGA Tour money list at \$527,528 and needing to finish the event in the top 125 on the season prize money chart to keep his playing rights for next season.

Winning the tournament would bring a top prize of \$846,000 and leap Beljan to

But with his career on the line, Beljan came out firing, opening the second round with an eagle at the par-5 first. Birdies followed at the par-3 third, par-4 fifth and par-5 seventh.

Beljan began the back nine with a birdie then eagled the par-5 11th. After a bogey at the 12th, he bounced back with birdies on the next two holes and even a bogey at 17 could only give the trailing pack a bit more hope with 36 holes remaining.

Sharing second on 135 were Japan's Ryuji Imada, South Korean Charlie Wi, Australian Matt Jones, Sweden's Henrik Stenson and Americans Harris English, Mark Anderson and Charles Howell.

Jones, who fired a 64 for his low round of the year, and Imada must finish higher to crack the season's top 125.

"Better late than never," Jones said. "Hopefully we can keep going."

"One good weekend can mean a lot. It can turn your whole year around," Imada said. "I'm in position to do that, but still got a long ways to go. I've had an awful year this year, so no expectations. Just going to go out and play hard."

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Murray sees off Tsonga to make semi-finals



A multiple exposure picture shows Britain's Andy Murray serving against France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga

LONDON (AFP) - Andy Murray swept into the semi-finals of the ATP Tour Finals as the world number three defeated France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) at London's O2 Arena on Friday.

After Novak Djokovic's win over Tomas Berdych earlier on Friday, Murray knew he only needed to take one set off seventh seeded Tsonga to guarantee his third appearance in the last four of the season-ending event.

The 25-year-old took just 33 minutes to achieve his goal and he eventually sealed his second win of the tournament, advancing from Group A in second place behind

Djokovic, despite a late flurry from Tsonga.

After a glorious year which has featured his first Grand Slam title at the US Open, a gold medal in the Olympic singles and a first appearance in the Wimbledon final, Murray would love to cap the campaign with a first Tour Finals crown.

To do that he is likely to have to get past defending champion Roger Federer, who will be the Scot's semi-final opponent on Sunday if, as expected, the Wimbledon champion finishes top of Group B.

"It was quite a tough scenario and I was lucky to get

off to a good start," Murray said.

"When he was imposing himself as he was in that second set, he is a hell of an ath-

lete and very tough to play."

Tsonga, beaten in his previous two group matches, required a straight sets victory to sneak through at Murray's expense, but his track record suggested the outcome wouldn't go his way.

Murray had won six of their previous seven clashes, including a semi-final success at Wimbledon earlier this year, while Tsonga had lost all 11 of his meetings with top-eight ranked players this year.

Cleverly mixing the pace and flight of his groundstrokes, Murray quickly took charge and tempted Tsonga into a series of rash shots from the baseline that gifted the Scot a break in the opening game.

Murray continued to baffle Tsonga with his astute shot selection and secured a second break for a 3-0 lead when the frazzled Frenchman

drove a forehand into the net.

Tsonga, the Tour Finals runner-up 12 months ago, finally got on the scoreboard when he held serve in the fifth game, but Murray refused to relinquish his strangehold and easily closed out the set.

Murray kept his foot on the gas and broke in the first game of the second set thanks to a Tsonga double-fault.

Yet, with defeat looking certain, Tsonga underlined why he can be so frustrating as he suddenly started playing with real purpose and broke Murray to love to level at 4-4.

Tsonga saved two break points at 5-5 and kept the pressure on Murray, who had to save a set point to force a tie-break.

But the Scot refound his rhythm in the breaker and some searing groundstrokes ended Tsonga's resistance.

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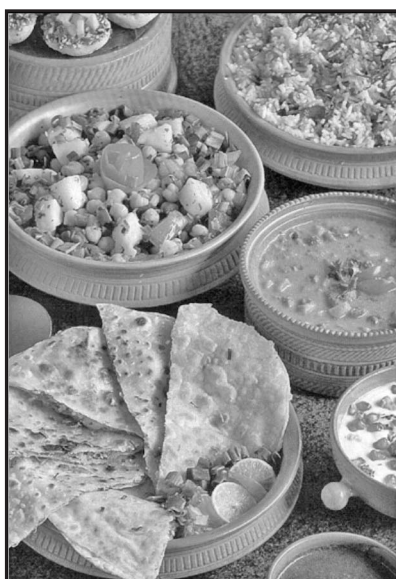
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